

A stylized globe in the top right corner, composed of a grid of dots with lines connecting some of them, suggesting a network or digital theme. The globe is partially cut off by the right edge of the page.

PARTNERSHIP FOR

# COUNTERING INFLUENCE OPERATIONS

## BYLAWS FOR RESEARCHERS' GUILD MEMBERS

### 1. GUILD MEMBER COMMITMENTS

- a. The objectives of the Influence Operations Researchers' Guild are to serve as a place to define and share best practices, to improve research standards, and to strengthen the research community's response to influence operations on the basis of shared values and norms.
- b. Members and other individuals and organizations affiliated with the Guild pledge to support the motivating principles behind these goals, including the Guild's values as described in its Charter, accessible here: <https://carnegieendowment.org/specialprojects/counteringinfluenceoperations/researchersguild>
- c. Beyond these values, Guild members and affiliates are expected to adhere to a high standard of professional, personal, and legal conduct and to avoid engaging in activities that could be construed as influence operations.

### 2. GUILD MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- a. Guild membership is open to independent investigators and researchers working to uncover, expose, and understand ongoing efforts to manipulate political discourse online.
- b. Guild membership is not open to government bodies or social media companies; their employees or components; or other individuals or organizations that exclusively or primarily support them.
- c. Should an individual deemed ineligible for membership under this section change professional affiliations, they may be considered for Guild membership six months after vacating the disqualifying position.
- d. Existing Guild members who, through a change in their position or other status, become ineligible under this section must forfeit membership.
- e. This section does not preclude Guild members from accepting government grants or other sources of funding, or from earning supplemental income through freelance work.

### 3. GUILD AFFILIATES

- a. PCIO may create different forms of “affiliate” status for organizations or individuals whose work is adjacent to, but distinct from, the investigatory work carried out by Guild members.
- b. The primary use case for affiliate status will be for academic institutions and professionals.
- c. Affiliates may be invited to participate in Guild programming and may be asked to provide services for the Guild, such as publication review or professional mentoring.
- d. Affiliates will be expected to adhere to the same ethical standards as Guild members (outlined in Section 1 of this document) and comply with the same eligibility requirements (outlined in Section 2 of this document). The process for termination of affiliate status will be the same as the process for Guild members (outlined in Section 4 of this document).
- e. Affiliate status is granted under the discretion of PCIO staff and may be terminated at any time for violation of these bylaws or changes in professional status.

### 4. TERMINATION OF GUILD STATUS

- a. Should an admitted Guild member or affiliate, due to a change in staff, leadership, methodology, or any other circumstance, fail to comply with the above commitments, PCIO may terminate the membership or affiliation of the party in question. PCIO will notify the affected party of this decision.
- b. The affected party will have the right to appeal the termination of its membership or affiliation. PCIO will consider appeals by convening a three-person panel consisting of the Guild’s review committee members, who will decide whether or not to uphold PCIO’s decision to terminate through an up-or-down vote. The affected party may provide the review committee, through PCIO, a written account and any supporting documentation before a decision is reached and implemented. The panel’s decision will be final and binding but will not preclude reapplication.
- c. Termination of Guild membership or affiliation will be reserved for clear violations of these bylaws, repeat failures to comply with expected standards, and exceptional circumstances of professional misconduct. When possible, PCIO will endeavor to identify other forms of remedy before resorting to the termination process.
- d. Guild members and affiliates may end their membership or affiliation at any time by notifying PCIO staff.